



State of Connecticut  
Department of Administrative Services  
Division of Construction Services  
Office of Education and Data Management

# Fairs and Special Events Inspections

*Presented by  
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for the*

*Office of Education and Data Management  
Spring 2016 Career Development Series*



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Marshal

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## Introduction, Goals, and Objectives

- This is a 3 hour class for Code Officials and other town officials
- Our goal is with every event is to have a safe and successful event
- Our goal for today is to provide new material, as well as reminders and reinforcement of what is needed
- We will conclude by sharing our wins, losses, and draws

## Some definitions

Fairs: "a gathering of people to barter, sale of goods, entertainment, exhibition, display of goods, amusement facilities" – Webster

Special: "different from others, unique, peculiar, exceptional, extraordinary."



Based upon these definitions, what occupancies/use groups/hazards would we expect to use when reviewing these types of events?

What makes this a problem?

Temporary, flimsy, outdoors, "it's only for today," lots of citizen volunteers who think that the rules in public are the same as when they are at home.

## How do we find out about these Events?

- Drive-bys
- Advertising
- Calls for information
- Complaints
- Response to an incident



- OR, maybe we have a local Special Events Ordinance
- OR, we use NFPA 1 sections 10.15.1 and 10.15.2
  - The basis of local authority is the protections of Health, Safety, and Welfare
  - Generally- set a threshold occupancy trigger

## Speaking of Permits

### A permit system should include

- An application
- A review
- Either return, deny, or issue
- A revocation/suspension step
- A non-applicability provision



### A permit application should tell you

- Names and contact info
- Description of the event
- Rain dates
- Estimated #s of people
- Plans/narrative sufficient to illustrate
  - Parking
  - Food services
  - Potable water
  - Sanitation
  - Rubbish/litter control
  - Sound and lighting
  - Law enforcement
  - Fire and Life safety
  - EMS
  - Event emergency plan

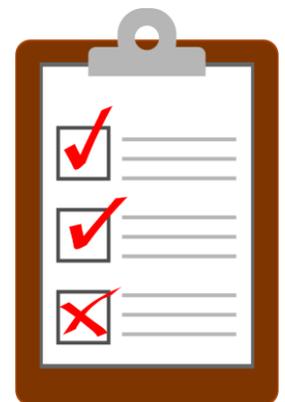
## NFPA 1 10.15

### Special Events, Carnivals, and Fairs

- 10.15.1 Permits
- 10.15.2 AHJ-access for emergency vehicles, access to fire protection, placement of stands, booths, exhibits, and control of hazardous conditions dangerous to life and property
- 10.15.3 The AHJ shall be permitted to order a life safety evaluation
  - Note: What if you don't?
    - Someone may ask, "Did you deviate from an adopted standard or recognized standard or an industry best practice?"
    - Result = Liability
      - Organizational or Personal

## NFPA 1 Sec 10.15.3.2 Life Safety Evaluations

1. Nature of the events and the participants
2. Access and egress movement, including crowd density problems
3. Medical emergencies
4. Fire hazards
5. Permanent and temporary structural systems
6. Severe weather conditions
7. Earthquakes
8. Civil or other disturbances
9. Hazardous materials incidents within and near the facility
10. Relationships among stakeholders



## CT Building Code Sec 3103

- Structures for Less than 180 days
  - Permits
  - Construction documents
  - Location
  - Egress
  - Construction
  - Membranes



## Who should be at the table AT THE LOCAL LEVEL?

- Building Official
- Planning and Zoning
- Health
- Risk Manager
- Fire Marshal
- Fire Chief
- EMS
- Town Administration
- Special districts representation
- Emergency Management Director
- Law Enforcement



- Make this a team-based effort
  - Use a unified command structure, providing an opportunity for people to work together
  - Communicate – in writing
  - No surprises

# Take a Break

15 minutes



## Fair and Special Event Inspections

- Electrical
  - NFPA 70
- Propane
  - NFPA 58
- Utility Infrastructure
  - Underground
  - Low wires
  - Aboveground/grade level
- Parking
  - Vehicle fire?

- Combustible Displays
- Traffic
- EMS
  - On-site care (first aid)
  - Transport
- Fire Safety
  - Prevention
  - Suppression

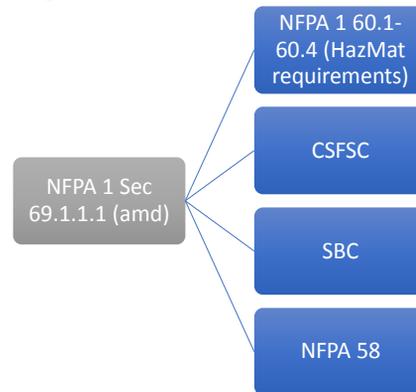


# How do we get there?

## Getting to the NEC



## Getting to NFPA 58



## Indoor Venues



- Social clubs, schools, religious buildings, etc
  - The 3 most important things to check
    - Emergency forces access
    - Occupant egress
    - Exit access corridors
- Example
  - Stouffer's Conference Building December 1980
    - Combustible Interior
    - Furnishings, contents, etc.
    - No sprinklers

# Special Amusement Buildings

- NFPA 1 Sec 3.3.30.10
  - *Special Amusement Building: a building that is temporary, permanent, or mobile and contains a device or system that conveys passengers or provides a walkway along, around, or over a course in any direction as a form of amusement arranged so that the egress path is not readily apparent due to visual or audio distractions or an intentionally confounded egress path, or is not readily available due to the mode of conveyance through the building or structure."*
- NFPA 1 Sec 10.9.1
  - *Emergency Plans Where Required: Emergency plans shall be provided for educational, high-rise, health care, ambulatory health care, residential board and care, assembly, day care centers, special amusement buildings, detention and correctional occupancies, underground and windowless structures and facilities storing or handling materials regulated by chapter 60 of this code.*
- NFPA 1 Sec 20.1.4 and SBC 411
  - Special Amusement Building requirements

## On a related Note

- NFPA 1 Mobile Food Trucks
- <http://www.nfpa.org/foodtrucksafety>

**FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR MOBILE COOKING OPERATIONS**



**General**

- Does your jurisdiction require a license or permit to operate (e.g. local fire/health department)?
- Is cooking equipment attended at all times?
- Are all required ventilation openings open during cooking operations?
- Is the cooking hood/ventilation system free from grease?
- Is the vehicle parked at least 10 feet from buildings, other vehicles, or combustibles?
- Is the vehicle parked so as not to block fire hydrants, fire lanes, fire department connections, exits, etc.?

**Training**

- Are employees trained in proper use of cooking equipment?
- Are employees trained in how to shut-off fuel sources (e.g. propane, generators)?
- Are employees trained in how to notify the local fire department in an emergency?
- Are employees trained in proper storage, handling and fueling procedures?
- Are employees trained in how to perform a leak test and when one is needed?
- Are workers trained in the proper use of portable fire extinguishers and hood extinguishing system?

**Fire Protection**

**PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

- Are portable fire extinguishers charged, not obstructed, and in operating condition?
- Are portable fire extinguisher located near the cooking appliances, solid fuel storage, and any portable energy source (e.g. generator)?

**Hood Fire Suppression System**

- Is the hood fire suppression system charged and in operating condition?

**Fuel and Power Sources**

**PROPANE**

- Is the propane system inspected prior to use?
- Are the propane tanks secured in an upright position?
- Are the propane tanks within their hydrostatic test date?
- Is the propane system in good condition, (i.e. no leaks, rust)?
- Has the propane system been leak tested?
- Has a leak test been performed when a new tank is installed, or a modification to the system has been made?
- Is documentation available for any leak test?
- Is the main shut-off marked, in plain view and easily accessible?
- Is the fuel supply shut off when not in use and while in transit?
- On gas system piping, is a flexible connector installed between the regulator outlet and the fixed piping system?

**ELECTRICAL**

- Is the electrical system and other equipment in good working condition?
- Are extension cords in good condition?
- Is the electrical system, including extension cords in accordance with the electrical code?

**GENERATORS**

- Are generators placed at least 10 feet from buildings, structures, vehicles and combustibles?
- Are generator exhausts directed away from mobile cooking vehicle, vehicles, buildings, structures, exits and openings?
- Are generators protected from contact by the public?
- Are fuel supplies properly stored?
- When refueling are the generators shut down, engine cooled and then refueled?

**SOLID FUEL**

- Is combustible solid fuel stored properly and away from combustibles or heat producing appliances?
- Are ashes, cinders, and other fire debris removed at the end of the day and stored in a proper container away from the vehicle, buildings and combustibles?

3) This tip sheet provides some safety information to help advance safety of mobile and temporary cooking operations. It is not intended to be a comprehensive list of requirements for mobile and temporary cooking operations. You should check with your local jurisdiction for specific requirements. This tip sheet does not represent the official position of the NFPA or its Technical Committees. The NFPA disclaims liability for any personal injury, property, or other damages of any nature whatsoever resulting from the use of this information.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION go to [nfpa.org/foodtrucksafety](http://nfpa.org/foodtrucksafety)**

## Festival Powders

- Issues to consider
  - Respiratory problems
  - Toxicity of products
  - Flammability of dust
  - Abrasives
  - Carcinogens
  - Vision impacts (in particular during an emergency)
- June 27, 2015 Formosa Fun Park Fire
- There are existing NFPA standards related to powders



## In other News

- Tall buildings of wood construction
- Current project of the Fire Protection Research Foundation
- Ray is the fire marshal representative on the panel advising the foundation and the contractors
- See Ray for more details
  - [Ray.walker@boltonct.org](mailto:Ray.walker@boltonct.org)



Questions? Comments? War  
Stories?

